

Nebraska Numismatic Association

NEWSLETTER



ORGANIZED MCMLVI

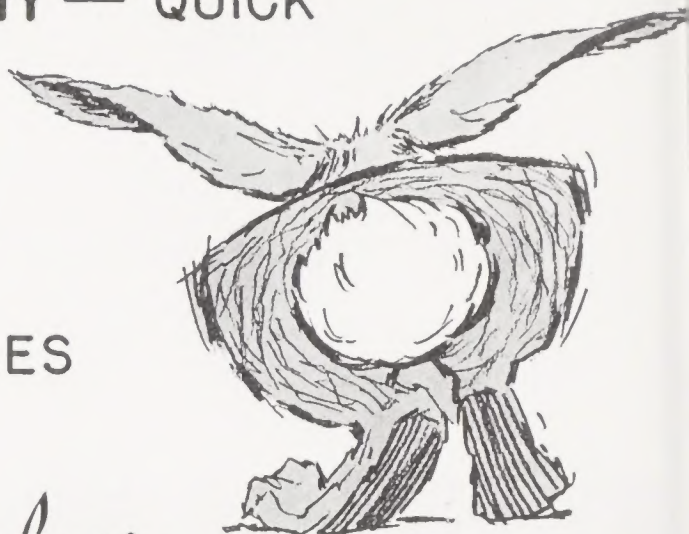
VOLUME II ISSUE 2

JANUARY 1966

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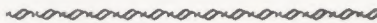
Secretary's Notes....

1966 Nebraska Numismatic Association dues are now due and payable as of January 1, 1966. Your \$1.00 now brings you a full year's subscription to the NEWSLETTER as well as voting privileges for state officers. Most importantly, your \$1.00 will support your state organization. No other notice will be sent to you so please send your \$1.00 NOW to:

N.N.A. Secretary
John J. Gabarron
P. O. Box 3011
Lincoln, Nebraska 68510

Dealers who have reserved bourse tables for the 1966 convention in Minden, but who have not yet paid their \$30.00 fee are reminded that the deadline for payment is February 1, 1966. If payment is not received by this date the reservations will be voided and the remaining tables sold on a first-check-received basis. It should be noted that only three tables now remain unreserved. Checks should be sent to J. J. Gabarron at the above address. Also, no donations will be solicited from dealers for door prizes this year.

The NEWSLETTER is always happy to receive information of various club meetings. PLEASE, club secretaries, SEND US INFORMATION about your club and its members.

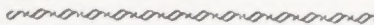


Checklist of

What's Coming

Bart Lewis on Ancient Coinage
Oswin Keifer on Nebraska Broken Bank Notes
J. Roger Bolz on Nebraska Transportation Tokens
Bob Kutcher on Metrology
Jim McKee on Paper Money and Patterns

The NEWSLETTER is always looking for authors who are interested in writing articles on local topics of numismatic interest. If you are interested just contact us, we will supply art work and any help you might need on syntax, etc.



A rumor has been circulating that Mary Ulbrick of Nebraska City is writing a booklet on numismatics in the state of Nebraska. The book will supposedly contain many photographs from around the state, at conventions and club meetings. Although Mrs. Ulbrick has not told us anything of it yet, I am sure that the NEWSLETTER will be among the first to carry news of it-so be looking.

Editor's Desk

During the past several years the much maligned vending machine has certainly taken more than its share of criticism in relation to the U. S. coin shortage. During a recent numismatic gathering the Editor overheard the following exchange:

Collector: "Hi. You don't happen to have any 50¢ pieces do you?"
Dealer: (examining pocket) "Nope, sorry."
Collector: "Did'nt think you would. Boy, every one I get goes right into a box in my closet!"

When coins were ALL scarce the vending machines were without a doubt, (as claimed by many numismatic writers) the chief culprit. Now that 50¢ and 25¢ pieces have disappeared from circulation the blame should be put where it belongs. Who ever heard of a vending machine hoarding 50¢ pieces? To paraphrase an old colloquialism: The machines have finally given the collector the "camshaft."

A recent compendium of the attributes of prize winning coin displays proved quite interesting. All collectors would do well to consider these facts when preparing an exhibit.

1. Most prize winning displays contain between 10 and 20 coins.
2. Nearly all winning displays instantly tell the casual observer the nature or scope of the display.
3. Neatness and eye appeal are more important than rarity or condition.
4. A winning display almost always proves interesting to a non-collector.

It seems the would-be exhibitor would do well to approach his exhibit much as an advertising expert approaches his task. First, catch the spectator's eye with attractive window dressing. Then, and only then, will he stop to examine the coins themselves.

Elsewhere in this issue you will notice that six new memberships were added to the N.N.A. rolls this month. It should be added, however, that all of these memberships were solicited by one of your editors at two recent club meetings. Since the N.N.A. officers cannot be present at most club functions it is hoped that each individual member will consider himself an emissary and promote the state organization. PLEASE, HELP US OBTAIN NEW MEMBERS! We can only be successful when all members take an active part.

A new feature of this issue is the LETTERS TO THE EDITOR page. This is your chance to express your views on anything numismatic.



nebraska territorial banks

by Jim McKEE

The history of banking in Nebraska actually starts with the civil commencing of the territory, though the first territorial legislature actually made banking a criminal offense. It was not until 1856 that other than insurance companies were given the right to operate banks. The banks of early Nebraska, as all banks of the period, were founded on a basis which still provides sufficient backing for the adventurous-the gullibility of the public.

The territory came into being during the height of the "wildcat and Bob-Tailed currency days." At this time a wildcat bank was defined as any bank which was chartered before the National Banking Act of 1863 and which issued notes in excess of its capacity to redeem them. Many banks were called Saddle Bag or Carpet Bag banks, these were so called because the banks often carried all of their notes in their saddle bags and traveled all over the country buying anything they could sell at a profit such as cows or horses. Some claim this was the origin of the term "Carpet Bagger."

Because anyone with enough money to buy a charter and back a printing of notes could establish a bank it was often not only difficult to find the bank, but equally difficult to find the town in which the bank operated. The only source of profit to such banks was the circulation of its notes, so as long as the notes circulated they had a paper profit, thus it was to their advantage to have them circulating as far from the source of redemption as possible. Howard H. Preston said "I visited one of these banks once. It was in a logging camp in the thick woods near the East shore of Lake Michigan. It was bout eight foot square, eight foot high, made of rough boards, flat roof with one sliding window, a plain board shelf, on which the notes were signed, a small door, over which, in red chalk, was the name of the bank. It was never occupied but once. When I saw it the bank had closed."

cont.

The panic of 1857 put an end to the business of banking on this level. In early 1857 there were six banks with a capital of \$15,000, circulation of \$41,641 and deposits of \$3,673. By 1858 there were four banks in Nebraska with a total capital of \$205,000, total circulation of \$353,796 and deposits of \$125,291. By 1861 there were still a few notes in circulation, but none were being circulated by the banks themselves. The only bank still in existence at this time was the "Omaha and Chicago Bank." There was no board or public official to whom the banks were held reportable and any bank which issued a report was undoubtedly window dressing its accounts. The largest and perhaps most reputable of the Nebraska banks of this era was the "Western Exchange Fire and Marine Insurance Company of Omaha" which was later the official depository of the territory government. A sample of one of their notes is illustrated above. It failed finally on September 23 of 1857 with assets of \$288,083 and cash of \$191.03. Although the assets had a high book value they did not even return enough to cover the cost of the sale.

One reason why the notes of the "Bank of Nebraska" are so scarce today is that Mr. B. F. Allen of Des Moines and Mr. David H. Moffatt of Denver personally backed them and continued to buy the securities after the banks themselves had failed. Two banks which did not fail, but paid all of their obligations in full were the "Platte Valley Bank of Nebraska City" and "The Bank of Dakota."

With this introduction to the actual banks and banking practices in Nebraska be looking for an article on the notes of Nebraska banks by Oswin Keifer in a coming edition.

NEWSLETTER

The Nebraska NEWSLETTER is the non profit publication of the Nebraska Numismatic Association. The NEWSLETTER is printed four times each year in Lincoln by:

Editors: Jim McKee and Barton Lewis
Art & Titles: Bob Kutcher
Mailing: Ray Plouzek

Your questions, suggestions and articles or advertising are avidly solicited.



The little fellow on the left is Mr. Zip. Beginning January of 1967 all third class mail must bear the five digit zip number. This includes the NEWSLETTER. Although this date may seem a long way off it will mean a great deal of extra work for our mailing crew. If your copy of the NEWSLETTER does not have your zip code on its address label please drop us a note and let us know your's as soon as possible.

UNCLE SAM'S NEW MONEY MAKER



from
the desk of Jim McKEE

With the aid of several large U. S. businesses, Uncle Sam will soon be making money on an even bigger scale. He's always been in the money making business, of course, coin and currency manufacturing that is, but now with the help of General Motors and DuPont his creaking old plant is being turned into a modern mint of the future. General Motors is currently designing a coin press capable of producing 10,000 pieces per minute from a coin of the metal being employed-current machines can produce only 300 pieces per minute in contrast. These and numerous other new devices will be installed in the new mint building at Philadelphia at a cost of about 38 million dollars.

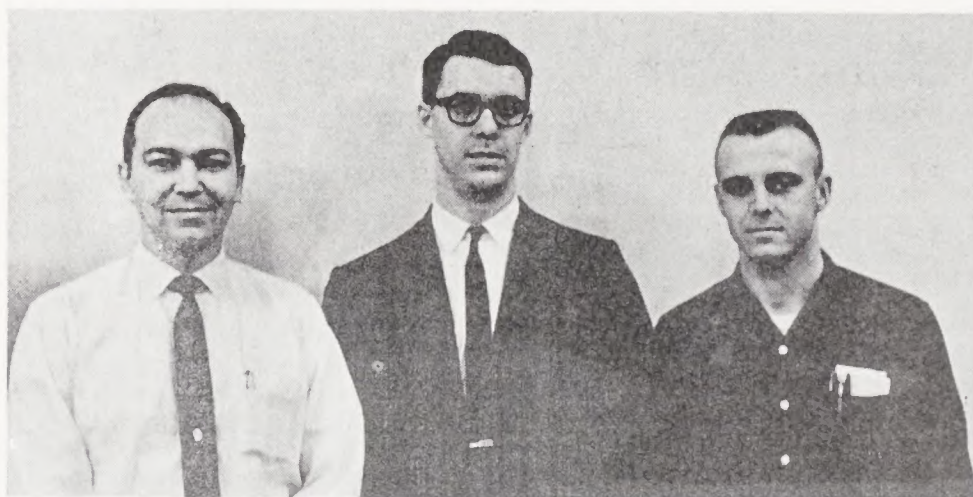
This new construction and machinery acquisition is, in part due to the great and growing demand for coins as mentioned in earlier articles. While the three mints were able to keep up the annual demand of 4 billion pieces of coin only a few years ago the new figure is expected to be in the neighborhood of 12 billion pieces annually by next summer. The new clad coins also are expected to require a heavier press and foundation to say nothing of the new machinery which will ultimately be used to bond the clad metals together at the mint (currently bonded metal is being purchased from private manufacturers). Treasury officials hope the new mint edifice will be completed sometime in 1967, until that time the 850 man crew will continue to work around the clock to try and keep up with the current exploding demand.

Mint error collectors will be disappointed if they expect that the new production schedules will produce new and more plentiful varieties, as even more inspection steps are being planned. Seigniorage is the term which denotes the actual "profit" which the mint makes, i.e., the value of the coins at face over and above the amount it takes to produce them. Earlier, this year was expected to bring a seigniorage profit of 113 million dollars, but the new non-silver coins will reduce costs and this is expected to mushroom to closer to 900 million dollars which will help to finance the new mint facilities and perhaps even lower taxes someday.

Once the new mint is in full swing proof coins may again prove a reality and at least one mint official seems to think that when, in the future, demand for coin goes over the new production capability of 12 million pieces per year a new mint may have to be built somewhere in the midwest. I wonder if the mint mark for Beaver Crossing would be BC, making coins struck in "B.C." a reality?



Above is one of the two tables of Lincoln Coin Club members who attended the Ladies Night Banquet held December 11 at King's Buffett. After a fine dinner bingo was played with everyone taking home some nice prizes from sheep manure to stereo Christmas records.



The new officers of the Lincoln Coin Club for the year of 1966 are left to right; Bob Kutcher, Vice President; Barton Lewis, President; Ted Koopman, Treasurer. Not pictured were Jim McKee, Secretary and Rick Cross, Junior Chairman.

If you would like to see your club's activities in pictures in the NEWSLETTER, all you need do is send us pictures, preferably about two inches by three inches. If you so desire they may even be returned. Our staff is always traveling to shows nearby, but we may miss yours, so why not drop us some pictures along with the story of your show or meetings.

club news

Mr. John D. Rea, Secretary of the Blue Valley Coin Club has pointed out that we incorrectly listed the time and meeting of their club. They now meet each third Tuesday alternating between Wymore and Beatrice with Beatrice holding the meeting on odd months. Interested persons can get information from Mr. Rea at 1508 North twelfth street, Beatrice, Nebr. 68310.

The Oregon Trail Coin Club which meets the second Wednesday of each month at the Art Guild Hall, 13 West 23rd Street at 7:30 in Scottsbluff, held its annual election of officers at their November meeting. Elected were: Wayne Schilling, President, Paul Daggett, Vice President, and E. J. Williamson, Secretary-Treasurer. It is interesting to note that Paul Daggett is a Junior Member of their club.

Four new members were voted in including 2 adults and 2 Junior Memberships. Their show of October 2nd and 3rd was well attended with eight bourse dealers doing a brisk business. The club has a policy of limiting the number of dealers which works out very well. The new Secretary, Mr. E. J. Williamson can be contacted at 315 West Overland in Scottsbluff, Nebr. 69361.

The Lincoln Coin Club held its final meeting of the year December 14, at the downtown YMCA. Highlighting the meeting was the election of officers for 1966. Results of the bitterly contested campaign were as follows:

President - Bart Lewis
V. Pres. - Bob Kutcher
Secretary - Jim McKee
Treasurer - Ted Koopman
Sgt. Arms - Bud Morgan

Also discussed at the meeting was the possibility of a new location for meetings. The YMCA has been used since the club was organized in 1951, but several members felt another location might offer additional advantages.

New Members Since the Last NEWSLETTER

Lt. Col. Robert L. Hughes, 111 Fairchild Circle, Offutt A.F.B.
Allen L. Schrock, 509 North Thomas, Oakland, Nebraska
Lou Blakely, 2306 Warren Street, Bellevue, Nebraska
Perry Nystrom, 1112 Birchcrest Road, Bellevue, Nebraska
Fred J. Knieke, 4820 "M" Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
Dr. Harold Krieger, 1811 "F" Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

Daffynitions: ANDORRA CROWN - "A Transportation Token"
(Made for the sole purpose of taking the collector for a ride!)

Coins

Utilitarian Or Artistic ?

By Bob Kutcher

Most of the first coins made by the ancient Greeks were either gold or silver, as both were easily struck by the soft dies of the time, both were metals of beauty and both were found in a naturally pure state. The Greeks recognized that coins were a completely new media for art, and capitalized on this new art form.

Kings and leaders of states sought and employed the finest master craftsmen and artists to make their coins, and much pride was taken by the people in the beauty of their coins. Good die-sinkers were at a premium for many years and were regarded as the artists, where as sculptors who worked in stone and marble and even the great architects and painters of vases were considered as minor artisans. Die makers worked with precious stones, ivory, gold, silver and bronze, but were usually better known for their coin dies.

Theodoros, one such die maker, was considered a genius for his exquisit dies and is still famed for his artistic work in fine metals and jewels, his work being even mentioned in many ledgends. His technical inventions were the set-square, the level, vice, lathe, and a special method of hollow-casting bronze, but these are seldom mentioned because of his fame for artistic beauty.

Another famed gem-engraver was Mnesarchos, the father of pythagoras, who also worked at times as a engraver. Pythagoras learned his basic mathematics through his apprenticeship as an engraver, but turned to the arts of philosophy, poetry and music and even politics in his later life.

As time passed the artistic branch of coinage was forgotten, because of the need for more and more coins for business and because master engravers were few and costly. As commerce progressed, more denominations of coins were needed ro business and cheaper metals were used for the smaller coins, such as copper, bronze, iron and lead, and finally the allowing of base metals was used to cheapen all coins.

Today, as in ancient times, the utilitarian aspects of coinage have done away with the artistic side of coins. The die engraver must think first of the ultra-high-speed coinage machines and then the hardness of the metal that the coin is to be made of. Then his design must pass the inspection of various groups that are not artistic judges, mainly congress and the mint officals. He must also work into the design various mottoes and phrases along with the date and denomination. This leaves very little room for the true artistic expression left for the first dies of the ancients, where the whole obverse of the coin was reserved for the portrait or main design.

Hidden Treasure: How & Where to Find it

The author, Jeanne Horn, claims that you can find treasure-anywhere-if you know where to look for it and if you can recognize it as a treasure when you find it. At first this sounds like a pretty safe statement, however the 234 page book with 40 full page illustrations explains that quite often things which may be carelessly left in attics or china closets have a great deal of value to certain people. The trick is to know what to look for and what to do with it after you find it. Every possible form of treasure from coins to rugs is covered. A large section is devoted to lost treasure, ie., famous paintings etc. which have been lost over the years after thefts or have simply disappeared. The book is a fascinating collection of historic facts and as Milton F. Perry the curator of the Harry S. Truman Library Museum states: the "book is full of clues that will interest and help you, for whether you have an old airplane, a letter, a piano, or a cave, chances are, someone, somewhere will prize and want it." The hard bound book sells for \$5.95 and is published by the Arco Co. of New York.

Price Catalogue of U. S. Colonial and Continental Currency

The author, Ted Weissbuch, is no stranger to Nebraska Numismatists as he was a long time resident and former member of the Lincoln Coin Club. His latest book is coincidentally the latest book in the Numismatic Information Series published by Hewitt's of Chicago. It sells at coin dealers and book stores for \$1.00. The book not only pictures several hundred varieties of Colonial and Continental currency, but also undertakes to authoritatively price them, something which has not been undertaken for more than a decade and certainly not in the one dollar price range.

Donlon Catalog of United States Small Size Paper Money

Also in the Hewitt Numismatic Information Series is this latest edition of Mr. Donlon's now famous book on small U. S. currency. The primary reason for releasing a new edition was that the first edition was such a tremendous success (selling over three times as many copies as planned) that more printings were necessary-hence the new edition carries corrections to the first edition and has a new section devoted to printing errors on U. S. notes, with valuations. Although it is merely a new edition of an old book it has nearly 30 more pages and much added information. You can spot the new edition with the \$500 bill on the front cover.

Coins and Coin Collecting

This paperbound book is a sound introduction to coin collecting. The author, Burton Hobson, covers the entire range from ancient Greek to modern U. S. coins in just 192 pages and the fifty cent price tag will not discourage anyone. The book is in the Fawcett publications information series and is printed in Greenwich, Conn.

CALENDAR

January 15-16. Pittsburgh Kansas Coin & Gun Show, M. G. Wilkinson
915 East 10th Street, Pittsburgh, Kansas.

January 21-23. Kansas City Coin Club's 7th Annual Show, Hotel
Continental, Kansas City, Missouri, Bob Gregor, 213 East
Gregory, Kansas City, Missouri.

January 22-23. Wichita Coin Show, Holiday Inn, Thomas E. Hill,
1413 East Douglas, Wichita, Kansas.

January 29-30. Logan Grove Coin & Gun Show, Oakley High School
Cafeteria, Oakley, Kansas, Don Sites, Grinell, Kansas.

January 29-30. Plainville Coin Club 4th Annual Coin Show,
Plainville, Kansas, School Cafeteria, Neal Anderson,
Plainville, Kansas 67663.

February 5-6. Midwest Coin-Arama, Sedalia, Missouri, Thompson
Hills Shopping Center Mall, Art Richards, Box 26, Sedalia.

February 5-6. S.A.C. Coin Club Spring Show, Bellevue Junior
high School Cafeteria, S.A.C. Coin Club, Box 13048, Offutt
A.F.B., Nebraska 68113.

March 5-6. Hutchinson Kansas Coin Club's 9th Annual Show,
Convention Hall, Norlis Drake, 1703 Westbrook Drive,
Hutchinson, Kansas.

March 12-13. Red Oak Coin Club Show, American Legion Hall,
Bernard Norman, 1303 Hammond, Red Oak, Iowa 51566.

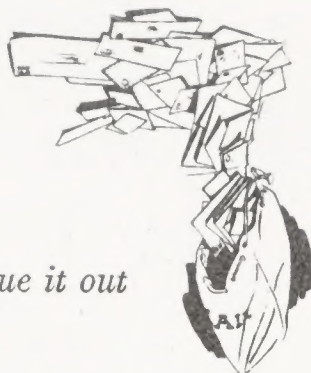
March 26-27. Nebraska City Coin Club Show, National Guard
Armory, Ron Chapin, South 11th Street, Nebraska City,
Nebraska 68410.

APRIL 16-17. NEBRASKA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTION.
Minden City Hall, Minden, Nebraska. Andy Paulsen, 603
North Tower, Minden, Nebraska 68959.

1966 Convention Chairmen

Coordinators.....Ray Bjorklund and Andy Paulsen
Banquet.....Dick Etzelmiller and Paul Henricksen
Auction.....Duane Christiansen and Ray Cannon
Hospitality & Registration.....Bonnie Westengaard,
Don Thomsen and Mrs. Bob Clark
Exhibits and Awards...Elmer Nelson and Reuben Estergarrd
Publicity.....Don Westengaard and Perry Fitzsimons
Bourse & Finance.....John J. Gabarron, Jim McKee and
Jack Etzelmiller
Ladies Activities Mrs. Dick Etzelmiller,
Perry Fitzsimons and Mrs. Ray Larson
Security.....Richard Jensen, Lloyd Johnson and
Elmer Nelson

Letters to the Editor



★ *Where readers cheer, hoot, or argue it out*

CONGRATULATIONS!! Your NEWSLETTER is just what I always dreamed it should be. You certainly have a fine format, and I enjoyed reading it from cover to cover. Thanks, too, for sending it to me--along with the membership card. I am enclosing a \$1.00 bill for reregistration.

I might interest you to know that I am Director of Welding at the College of Southern Idaho, Vocational Department here in Twin Falls.

I am also authoring a regular column on Coins and Currency for the Times News (newspaper) here in Twin Falls.

Best regards to all my friends.

Sincerely,
Frank R. Schell
P. O. Box 1122
Twin Falls, Idaho
83301

This is just a small note of appreciation for the quality of both content and format of your NEWSLETTER. The Nebraska Numismatic Association is lucky to have such a fine well-balanced publication which reflects some fine, well-balanced editing.

Sincerely,
Margo Russell
Executive Editor
Coin World

nominations

As directed by the President and the constitution of the Nebraska Numismatic Association the nominations for the offices of President, First Vice President and Second Vice President are now being accepted and shall be kept open only until March 17 (60 days before the convention). At this time the Secretary-Treasurer will furnish all paid-up members with ballots. The polls, both mail and in-person will close at noon of the first day of the convention, at which time the election committee will count the ballots and report the winners at the business meeting.

Nominations may be submitted until the deadline to the Secretary-Treasurer, John Gabarron, Postal Box #3011, Lincoln Nebraska 68510 or the NEWSLETTER.

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Annual Mint Report

The director of the mint's annual report of coinage for 1964 is now available at \$1.00. Copies may be ordered from: The Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington D. C. Most of the paperbound booklet is comprised with figures of numbers of coins struck for domestic and foreign usage with very little information other than mintages and other figures.

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N.N.A. MEDALS

Medals for both the Norfolk and Chadron Conventions are still available in all medals.



Sterling Silver	\$5.00
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Bronze	1.00
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Both Sets	13.00

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